

Appendix F: Writing Frames

A framed sentence or paragraph is an outline using key or structure words with open spaces for students to supply their own words. Frames help students bridge to full-length composing. Frames may be provided for any sentence or writing form that students need to develop. Students have the option to complete the frames with as many words as they choose. The following are examples of basic writing frames.

1. Frames for Sentence Types

When Sam _____ his friend, he _____ because _____
_____. (*When Sam called his friend, he felt happy because he hadn't seen her for a long time.*)

2. Frames to Develop Sequence and Logical Organization

When I got home from school, I noticed _____.

By six o'clock, _____.

By the time I was ready for bed, _____.

3. Frames for Description Using the Word Who

I am a(n) _____ who _____.

(*I am a girl who loves to play soccer with my friends.*)

(*Variation: Lincoln was the President who wrote the Gettysburg Address.*)

4. Story Frames

a. Frame for Describing Characters and Setting

(Title) _____ is a book/story/novel that happened in/near/on (where/when)
_____. The main character is (person) _____ who
_____. There are other important characters. There is _____
who _____. There is also _____ who _____.
Finally, there is _____ who _____.

b. Frame for Describing the Problem or Theme

The problem begins when _____.

The problem gets worse when _____.

The problem is solved when _____.

c. Frame for Expressing an Opinion about the Story/Book

Because I read this book, I realized/learned/understood _____.

I would/would not recommend this book to anyone who _____.

Adapted from Rothstein, E. & Gess, D. (1987). *Teaching writing: A developmental, systematic approach* (4th ed.).
Nyack, NY: ERA/CCR Corporation.